

Applicant understands the point of appointment a Patent Attorney but he has many problems with his Patent Attorneys in various countries (not only overpayments). Perhaps the Examiner knows that applicant has already had to make 2 Petitions with USPTO. Anyway, applicant will appoint a Patent Attorney later on.

Applicant submits also by fax and by Express Mail Service:

- The marked-up version of the changes made to the specification. The attached pages are captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**
- A copy with the new Claims (3 sheets).
- A Petition for Extension of 3 months and the receipt of wire transfer for \$ 475 (CITIBANK - Ref. Nr. 3310616189/1 - Date: April 16, 2003).

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE****In the Specification:**

Paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

The invention relates to flexible straws with one (or more) corrugated zone (flexible zone) comprising ~~consisting of~~ re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds), which are attached to the packaging of fruit juices, milks, coffees etc. and are permanently bent until their use in order to take up less space.

Paragraph beginning at line 12 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

The straws used to date for this purpose have one corrugated zone (flexible zone) comprising ~~consisting of~~ 8-10 re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds). [The first (or the last) fold, being firm, is not counted as re-entrant overlapping fold]. To bend to obtuse angles (e.g. 180°) due to the restricted number of folds, continuous external pressure has to be exercised. This pressure keeps being exercised by the packaging material afterwards as well. As a result the folds are permanently deformed and straightening of the straw is not possible. Also a problem is posed by the fact that all folds are expanded (unfolded) after bending of the straw. (e.g. The U-shaped straws.)

Paragraph beginning at line 25 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

The corrugated zone (flexible zone) of the new straw according to present invention, comprises ~~consists of~~ expanded (unfolded) re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds) that are not deformed by force and contracted (folded) re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds) interspersed among the expanded ones so that not many consecutive expanded folds **2**, **5** exist without interference of one **3** or more **4** contracted ones in order to achieve the best possible straightening up of the straw. Further, the first folds **1** are contracted, so that after straightening, the straw may bend to all directions.

Paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 6 has been amended as follows:

In case the straw has more than one corrugated zones (flexible zones) comprising ~~consisting of~~ re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds), [e.g. the S-shaped straws – **EP-A-0 327 244** (ELOPAK SYSTEMS AG)] the above are applied on all zones.

CLAIMS

5. A flexible drinking straw for packed fruit juices, milks, coffees etc. with a corrugated zone comprising re-entrant overlapping folds, which is permanently bent until its use in order to take up less space,

5 **characterized in that**

the corrugated zone of the straw comprises expanded re-entrant overlapping folds and contracted said re-entrant overlapping folds interspersed among the expanded ones.

10 6. The flexible drinking straw **according to claim 5** wherein the expanded said re-entrant overlapping folds are not deformed by force.

15 7. The flexible drinking straw **according to claim 5** wherein the contracted said re-entrant overlapping folds interspersed in such a way that not many consecutive expanded said folds **2, 5** exist without interference of one **3** or more **4** contracted ones.

20 8. The flexible drinking straw **according to claim 7** wherein the expanded said re-entrant overlapping folds are not deformed by force.

25 9. A flexible drinking straw for packed fruit juices, milks, coffees etc. with a corrugated zone consisting of re-entrant

overlapping folds, which is permanently bent until its use in order to take up less space,

characterized in that

the first re-entrant overlapping folds of the corrugated zone of the straw are contracted and all the others are expanded, whereby said straw, after its straightening, may bend to all directions.

10. The flexible drinking straw **according to claim 9** wherein the expanded said re-entrant overlapping folds are not deformed by force.

11. A flexible drinking straw for packed fruit juices, milks, coffees etc. with a corrugated zone comprising re-entrant overlapping folds, which is permanently bent until its use in order to take up less space,

characterized in that the corrugated zone of the straw comprises expanded re-entrant overlapping folds and contracted said re-entrant overlapping folds interspersed among the expanded ones, further the first said re-entrant overlapping folds of the said corrugated zone of said straw are contracted.

12. The flexible drinking straw **according to claim 11** wherein the expanded re-entrant overlapping folds are not deformed by force.

13. The flexible drinking straw **according to claim 11** wherein the contracted said re-entrant overlapping folds

interspersed in such a way that not many consecutive expanded said folds **2, 5** exist without interference of one **3** or more **4** contracted ones.

- 5 14. The flexible drinking straw **according to claim 13** wherein the expanded said re-entrant overlapping folds are not deformed by force.